

# Some Sages Predict House Will Elect Our Next President

BY JOHN ELPRETH WATKINS.

RENOWNED for their political sagacity and their frequent predictions that a triangular fight for the presidency this fall will throw the coming presidential election into the House of Representatives. Whether an alarmist view or not, this is one worthy of analysis at this time. The electoral vote will be counted before a joint session of Congress at 1 P. M. on the second Wednesday of February next. The total electoral vote in this campaign will be 531 and a majority necessary to a choice will be 266.

The Constitution provides that "if no person has such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President the vote shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states and the majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President."

**Senate Would Choose V. P.**  
But it is reasonably certain that no vice-presidential candidate will get a majority. If no presidential nominee receives one, so what is to be done in such an event?

The Constitution is clear on this point, also. The election of the Vice-President would be thrown into the Senate. Instead of the House, and the Senate would have to make final choice between the three, but the two candidates receiving the highest number of electoral votes. The election of the Vice-President is further simplified by the absence of constitutional restriction as to Senators voting "by states." They can use their individual preference and having only two men to choose from, one candidate would appear sure to receive a majority. This majority, however, would have to be a majority of the whole number of Senators, two-thirds of whom would be necessary to reconstitute a quorum to do business.

**Deadlock Seems Assured.**  
The Congress which would decide the election under such circumstances is that now in session. And, as stated, the vote of the House for President would be by states and not by individuals, each state having one vote representing the majority of its members.

A fact most interesting indeed to relate is that in the present House the political divisions are exactly equal. Although there are 225 Democrats and 161 Republicans. There are twenty-two state delegations in which the Republicans have a majority and the same number, twenty-two, in which the Democrats have a majority. In addition, there are four state delegations in which the balance of power, each tied with an equal number of Republican and Democratic representatives. These are Maine, Rhode Island, Nebraska and New Mexico.

A deadlock over the presidency would appear to be assured by this equal division of all the states. The successful candidate must obtain the votes of at least twenty-five states, and as said, the Democrats have but twenty-two. To have the Republican majority, the Democrats must win the four tie states. But the Democrats have many representatives now listed as Republicans will join the new party no one can yet estimate. Many of the old "insurgents" of the House either have refused or are hesitating to follow Colonel Roosevelt. But the least deflection sufficient to disturb the Republican majority in one state delegation would lose Mr. Taft the presidency. Still, the House could never elect a President unless three of the tie states should come to his rescue, or the Progressives should throw three of their states to him.

Therefore, if the election is thrown into Congress, the prospects would ultimately fall to the successful candidate for the Vice-Presidency. If the latter is elected by the Senate, the vote in that body will be between the two rather than the three candidates receiving the highest electoral vote and the procedure would be much simplified. But in the Senate, also, there is room for grave doubt that any faction would have a majority. The old "insurgent" senators hold the balance of power. The next few weeks will show how many of these will remain in the Republican party and how many will support the Progressive candidate.

To acquire a satisfactory mental picture of the exact procedure, should the coming election be thrown into Congress, you should first get a glimpse of how it has acted upon the rare occasions when it has. In the past, been resorted to for a final election of President and Vice-President.

A test of the process came early in the history of the republic. In the election of 1800 the electoral vote was divided as follows: Jefferson, Republican, 73; Burr, Republican, 33; John Adams, Federalist, 65; Charles C. Pinckney, Federalist, 64; John Jay, Federalist, 1. Not only was there no candidate with a majority, but Jefferson and Burr were tied. The House having been called upon to exercise its function to decide the choice, the balloting commenced February 11, 1801, and continued until the 17th. There being then



THOMAS JEFFERSON, Elected President by the House in 1801.

On the thirty-sixth ballot and the sixth day of the contest Jefferson finally received the votes of ten states and was declared elected. And Aaron Burr, having received the next highest number of votes, was elected Vice-President.

**The Old Method.**  
When the House thus chose Jefferson in 1801, the procedure was according to the original constitutional provision since superseded (in 1803) by the twelfth amendment. The House at that time was permitted to choose the President from the five highest candidates on the electoral list, and the person having the next highest number of electoral votes—whether a majority or not—was chosen Vice-President.

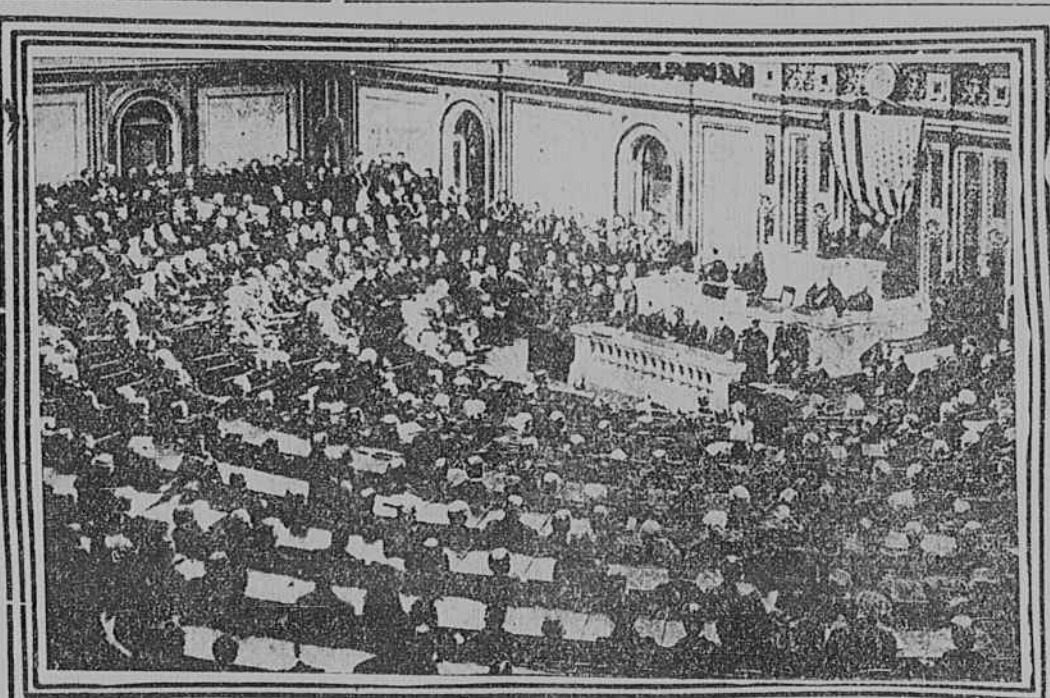
The Senate had no hand in the election of the Vice-President, except in case of a tie, when it chose "by ballot" between the tied candidates.

But the second election to be thrown into the House was decided by the same rules that would govern its selection of a President next winter. This was the election of 1824. In the campaign of that year, as threatens now, political parties were badly disorganized. Although Andrew Jackson won over John Quincy Adams by 122,000 to 67,000 in the popular vote, and by 39 to 13 in the electoral vote, neither of the two had a majority. This was owing to the fact that Clay and Crawford were also candidates, receiving, respectively, 37 and 41 electoral votes. So, as had been anticipated before the election, there was no choice of a President, although Calhoun had been elected Vice-President by more than two-thirds of all the electoral votes. Congress met the 6 of December, ten days after the meeting of the electors, and it was known that there had been no choice of a President, no notice was taken of the fact until the 13 of January, 1825, when the House adopted a resolution appointing a committee to prepare rules for the election of a President "in the choice of a President of the United States." This plan, also, following the procedure of Jefferson's election by the House in 1801, would probably be as closely followed by the House, should it have itself faced by the necessity of electing a President next February.

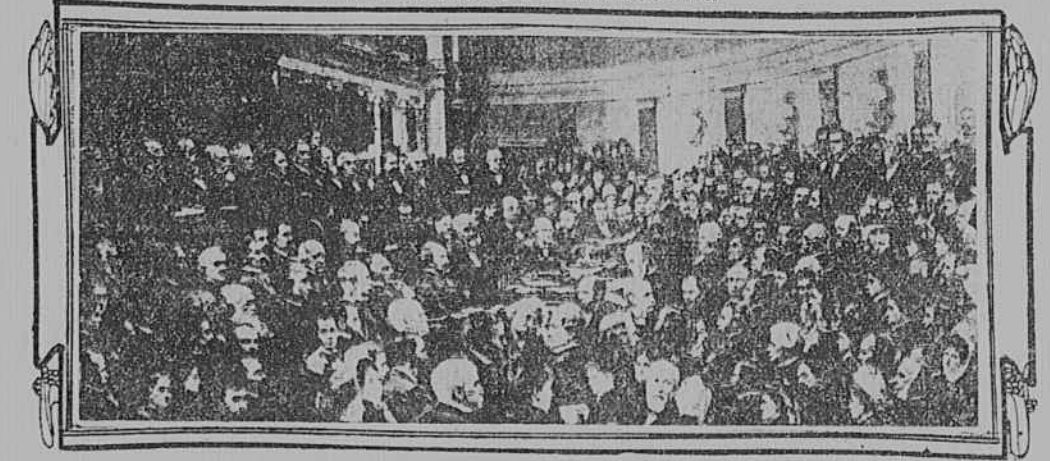
**Great Scandal Brewed.**  
In this contest, the votes of thirteen states were necessary to a choice between Quincy Adams and Jackson. Adams was sure of the unanimous vote of the six New England states and of a majority in New York, Maryland and Ohio. Before it began its work a great scandal brewed in the House, there being charges and counter-charges of much bargaining and trading of votes. A Philadelphia Journal published an alleged letter which accused Henry Clay of having offered his votes in exchange for the state portfolio, and Clay came back with the statement that the writer was "a base and infamous calumniator, a dastard and a liar." Many other members of Congress had to write letters of explanation to constituents.

On the first ballot Adams was elected by the House, receiving thirteen votes to seven for Jackson, and four for Crawford. Clay having been acquiescent out of the running because the Constitution now limited the balloting to the candidates receiving the three highest electoral votes, Jackson's followers swallowed their pill with difficulty and many urged a further amendment of the Constitution to prevent a repetition of what they termed a national calamity.

The next excitement of this kind was in 1837, when the election of the Vice-President had to be thrown into the Senate. In the previous campaign R. M. (Dick) Johnson, Van Buren's Democratic running mate, ran behind his ticket, receiving only 147 electoral votes, whereas Van Buren had 110 and a majority. A majority was lacking, however, in the case of Johnson whose rivals for the vice-presidency, with their electoral votes, were Francis Granger, Whig, 77; John Tyler, Whig,



COUNTING THE LAST ELECTORAL VOTE.



THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF 1877.

47; and William Smith, Democrat, 23. The Senate elected Johnson.

## November May Not Decide.

Whether the next election is to be thrown into the House may not be known in November next. Whether some of the electors listed on the old party tickets will vote for the promised new party's candidates may not be known until the date when the electors meet to cast their ballots. The voters will, on the first Monday in November, choose the electors who on the second Monday in January will meet in their respective states and ballot for President and Vice-President. All parties concerned must then be given a chance to formally contest the electoral vote, and through their own tellers, have a hand in counting it. Messengers having been sent to Washington with the electoral votes of each state, the casket containing them will, on the second Wednesday of February, be unlocked by the Vice-President in the presence of both bodies of Congress brought together in the great hall of the House of Representatives. If there has been any contest over the choice of the electors in any state, a certificate showing how the contest has been settled must be forwarded by the governor to Secretary of State Knox, who must then publish the certificate in some "public newspaper" and send copies to the two houses of Congress.

Having unlocked the electoral votes from the casket placed upon his desk, Vice-President Sherman will hand them to the tellers, seated at the desk below him, these gentlemen having been previously selected by their respective parties in each house. After having read the count as estimated by the tellers, the Vice-President will ask for objections, and if there be none he will add:

"This announcement of the state of the vote by the President of the Senate is by law a sufficient declaration that \_\_\_\_\_ is elected President," etc.

**The Procedure in Detail.**  
And here is the procedure which, if precedents are observed, will be followed in the event that no candidate in next November's election is found by this count to have received a majority of the electoral vote.

The Senate having retired to its chamber, the House of Representatives would begin action with a roll call. This having been taken, a member or members from two-thirds of the states are present, the House would immediately proceed by ballot to choose a President from the three candidates. In case none should receive the vote of a majority of all the states on the first ballot the House would continue to ballot for a President without interruption by other business until a President is chosen or there is a hopeless deadlock remaining unbroken until March 4.

The doors of the House would be locked during the balloting, except against its officers and members of the Senate. At the request of the delegation of any one State the galleries could be cleared. From the commencement of the balloting until the election were completed no proposition to adjourn could be received unless on the motion of one State, seconded by another, the question being finally decided by a vote of two-thirds of the members.

In balloting for President the following procedure would be followed: The representatives of each State would be arranged and seated together, beginning with the Maine delegation, seated at the right hand of the Speaker's chair and thence proceeding around the hall of the House with the other delegations seated in the order in which the States are usually named in the proceedings for receiving petitions.

**Ballot Box for Each State.**  
A separate ballot box would be provided for each State delegation, which, if necessary, might appoint tellers. As the clerk of the House called the roll of the States, the sergeant-at-arms would present to that State's delegation two ballot boxes, one for ballots and one for a duplicate set of the same ballots. The sergeant-at-arms would then carry one box to one set of tellers and the other to another. One representative from each State would be appointed by its delegation as a teller. These forty-eight tellers would then divide themselves into two sets, each assigned to a separate table, which would be in marked contrast



R. M. JOHNSON, Only Vice-President ever elected by the Senate.

with the arrangement at the time of Jefferson's election by the House, when there were only eight instead of twenty-four tellers at each table.

The count of the original set and duplicate set of votes must agree at each balloting. Each ballot would be reported to the House and announced by the Speaker, and as soon as a ballot

## To Avoid Pasty, Shiny, Streaked Complexions

(From Beauty's Mirror.)

Those who abhor sticky, greasy, shiny, streaked complexions should religiously avoid creams, powders and rouges these heated days. There's no need for them, anyway, since the virtues of mercolized wax have become known. No amount of perspiration will produce any evidence that you're using the wax. As it is applied at bedtime and washed off in the morning, the complexion never looks like a make-up. Mercolized wax gradually takes off a bad complexion, instead of adding anything to make it worse. It has none of the disadvantages of cosmetics and accomplishes much more in keeping the complexion beautifully white, satiny and youthful. Just get an ounce of it at your druggist's and see what a few days' treatment will do. Use like cold cream.

Another effective summer treatment—heat tending to cause wrinkles and flabbiness—is a skin-tightener made by dissolving 1 oz. powdered salolite in 1/2 pt. water. Its use (as a face bath) leaves no trace.

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JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, Last President elected by the House.

quire much of a prophet to predict that our next president will be Democratic and our next Vice-President either Republican or "progressive." If the coming election is appealed to Congress it is, therefore, vastly to the interest of the Democratic presidential candidate that a third candidate so divide the electoral vote that none of the three shall receive a majority.

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## ONANCOCK

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Onancock, Va., July 20.—Mrs. Mary M. Miles and Mrs. Thomas W. Taylor are visiting Mrs. Samuel W. Lankford, of Franktown, Va.

Rev. James Henderlite, a former pastor of the Presbyterian church here, was the guest of Mrs. R. K. Powell, at "Sassa Soule's" Friday.

Miss E. Virginia Hopkins left Tuesday on visit to friends at Martinsburg. Before returning she will spend two weeks at Patrick Springs.

Misses Ella Taylor and Lois Rogers spent this week with Miss Mary Bunkin, of Modest Town.

Miss Catherine Gustis is with her aunt, Mrs. John Leatherbury, of Eastville, for a month.

Misses Anne and Sue Slocum are spending two weeks with relatives in Pocomoke.

J. Drummond Parkes is home from a sojourn at Ocean View and Virginia Beach.

John Macen Cornick, Henry M. Cornick went to Westover Monday to visit Hugh Harrison.

W. F. Knapp, of Baltimore, was in town this week, the guest of R. T. Ames.

Mrs. Julia A. Kellam and Miss Ruth A. Kellam are with Mrs. Kellam's daughter, Miss Huthinson, of Harbor.

Miss Ruth Hatcher, of Washington, sang a solo with much expression and signed by at least one Senator and one Representative. Such ejaculations could properly rise only over such a question as which of two State authorities could properly determine what electors had been chosen. No regularly given electoral vote from any State where the electors had been lawfully certified to, and where only one return had been received, could be questioned. The objections being received, the two houses would separate, the Senate returning to its own chamber.

The majority would then be determined by the electors, had been chosen. No regularly given electoral vote from any State where the electors had been lawfully certified to, and where only one return had been received, could be questioned. The objections being received, the two houses would separate, the Senate returning to its own chamber.

Should some member of Congress contest the coming electoral vote during the procedure of counting it in February, as described, this would be the process:

Upon the Vice-President's calling for objections, Senators and Representatives could present them, but they would have to be made in writing and signed by at least one Senator and one Representative. Such objections could properly rise only over such a question as which of two State authorities could properly determine what electors had been chosen. No regularly given electoral vote from any State where the electors had been lawfully certified to, and where only one return had been received, could be questioned. The objections being received, the two houses would separate, the Senate returning to its own chamber.

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ant visit to Mrs. Charles Riley, have returned to Baltimore.

Miss Eakin, of New York, and Miss Kate Savage, of Cape Charles, were lately guests of Mrs. G. H. Powell.

Mrs. McKinnay, and daughter, of Washington, are with Mrs. W. H. Parker.

Volney Nottingham, of Eastville, spent several days with his cousin, A. Nottingham.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeland, of Baltimore, arrived Tuesday to be with Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Waters for ten days.

Seven Bowdoin, of New York, is at the home of his aunt, Mrs. E. B. Finney.

Mrs. H. L. Adkins, of Philadelphia, and Miss Claudia Ross, of Roanoke, are visiting Mrs. John Watson.

Ohio Parker, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Rogers and Miss Annie Peters went to Ocean City in Mr. Parker's touring car Sunday.

Professor Hicous of the Salisbury Business College, is in town.

## ROCKY MOUNT

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Rocky Mount, Va., July 20.—Rev. J. W. Corry Johnson, pastor of St. John's Church, Roanoke, closed a mission at Trinity Church Sunday and joined his family Tuesday en route to Rock Hill, S. C., where they go for a month's vacation.

Bishop B. D. Tucker preached and confirmed a class of four at Trinity Church Monday night.

Judge E. W. Saunders returned to Washington Monday after spending the week-end at home.

Major Meriwether, Lewis Walker, U. S. A., of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was the guest of his sisters, Mrs. E. W. Saunders and Mrs. John W. Lee, from Sunday until Tuesday, en route to Winard Haven, Mass., to join his family.

A merry camping party is enjoying life in the open on Chestnut Creek, twelve miles from town, chaperoned by Mrs. S. K. Williams. The party, which has been in camp all week is composed of the following young people: Misses Edith Greene and Louise Pinkard, Florence Becker, of Bluefield; Paulin Handley, of Danville; and Myrtle Hart, of Flat Top, N. C.; Douglas Rivers, Walter Green, Moton Menefee, Richard Melton and Rufus Dowdy, Misses Edith Greene and Louise Pinkard, Dr. Geo. Hooker and W. C. Menefee joined the party Wednesday.

Lieut. Robert H. Lee and bride, after spending a week with Judge and Mrs. John W. Lee, left Wednesday for a visit to Mrs. John R. Guerrant. They were accompanied by Mrs. Mildred Lee, of Norfolk.

Miss Beattie Mosley, of Charlotte, N. C., was the guest of her mother, Mrs. Herman Mosley, this week.

Dr. Humphries, of Camden, S. C., has been visiting the family of Mrs. C. J. Shaaf for the past week.

Dr. Varvin St. Clair and sister, Miss Katie St. Clair, visited relatives in Roanoke this week.

James Montgomery, Jr., is at Hotel Bel Air, New Castle, for the month of July.

Miss Florence Becker, of Bluefield, is the guest of her aunt, Mrs. L. W. Morgan.

Miss Myrtle Boone, youngest daughter of C. L. Boone, a prominent citizen of Boone Hill, and W. W. Wiseman, of Roanoke, eloped to Columbus, Ohio, last week and were married. They will reside at Roanoke.

## GORDONSVILLE

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Gordonville, Va., July 20.—Mr. C. E. Leonard, who has been spending the week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hall, in the city.

Miss E. M. Ross has returned from a visit of two weeks to her aunt, Mrs. B. J. Shirley, in Waynesboro.

Mrs. Granville Koonz and children, of Shenandoah, have been spending the week with Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Martin, in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Zamm, of Richmond, have been spending the week with Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Schindler.

Miss Julia Goodhue has returned from a visit to relatives at Shenandoah, and is spending the week with Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Martin, in town.

Miss Madeline Mannan, of Christiansburg, was guest on Wednesday of the former aunt, Mrs. S. A. Martin and Miss Bettie Faulstich.

Miss Kate Keegan has returned from a visit of several weeks to her sister, Mrs. M. A. Keegan, of Washington, accompanied by Mrs. Brown.

George Goodman, of Danville, spent several days this week with his family, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Goodwin.

W. W. Wingfield, of the Soldiers' Home, Richmond, spent several days this week with his nieces, Misses Betty and Lillie Eaber.

Mrs. N. Y. Swan and children were Richmond visitors this week.

Joe M. Alexander left on Wednesday night for Logan, W. Va., where he has secured a position.

Miss Camille Davis, of Richmond, is on her way to her aunt, Mrs. W. L. Dowell.

Robert Marshall, of Greene county, was a guest at the home of Mrs. Sidney Wood on Tuesday.

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